SHARE Plans Construction of New Building to House Center for Rehabilitation Engineering

The dream of expanded facilities for the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering moves closer to reality as SHARE plans for the construction of a new building on the UMass Dartmouth campus. The plan is to add a new building beyond the Violette Research Building, which will feature two 5,000-square-foot wings of production and office space connected by a 2,000-square-foot atrium. The Center for Rehabilitation Engineering will occupy one wing of the new facility, while the other half will be utilized by the University as an office and meeting complex.

After years of cramped operations in its present 2,000-square-foot headquarters, SHARE and Rehabilitation Engineering staff and volunteers are thrilled with the many improvements in productivity and service the new space will offer.

“Our Production/Repair facility will be more than twice the size it is now,” says SHARE president Les Cory, “with a street level entrance directly to the area.”

The new layout promises fast and easy access when transporting equipment to and from the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering. For the convenience of SHARE’s many clients, plans also include ample handicap accessible parking within 30 feet of the building. The entire building is at ground level and has been designed to ensure wheelchair accessibility throughout the facility.

“Given the nature of the work we do, we feel that a totally barrier-free building will be a significant enhancement for the benefit of our clients,” says Cory.

Final costs for the building are expected to reach $1.4 million. SHARE has already received donations and pledges to cover more than a third of the cost for the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering’s portion of the building and is launching a Capital Campaign to fund the balance of its construction costs.

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New Chair Welcomed to SHARE Board

SHARE is pleased to welcome Gerard Gaboriau as Chairperson of its Board of Directors. A member of the board since 1999, Gaboriau was elected to this leadership role at the Annual Meeting in December and will serve the board in this position through December 2002.

An MIS Director for First Federal Savings Bank of America, Gaboriau has taken an active role in many of SHARE's fundraising efforts in recent years, including team recruitment for its annual Fun Walks. Join us as we welcome Gerry and look ahead to embracing exciting new challenges under his informed and skillful leadership.

Fun Walk 2001 An “Event”-ful Day for SHARE

SHARE Fun Walk 2001 was the fundraising highlight of the year once again, raising over $22,000 to support the work of the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering.

The Walk attracted 175 participants, who gave it their all for the benefit of children and adults with disabilities. The warm and sunny autumn weather was perfect for walking, and the day wrapped up with plenty of food and entertainment for the enjoyment of everyone who came out to support the annual event. SHARE would like to extend a very special thank you to its Top Ten Pledge-Getters for Fun Walk 2001, whose efforts helped make the fundraiser a wonderful success:


Construction Plans
Continued from page one

Donations to SHARE's upcoming Memorial Day Appeal will support the first phase of this ambitious fundraising campaign. Naming rights also may be reserved for the building itself or one of its wings through a philanthropic gift to SHARE.

"Our hope is to occupy the new building by this time next year," says Cory. "It is an ambitious goal, but we have an incredible circle of friends and supporters who have helped us through so many challenges over the years. With their continued commitment and generosity, we believe that wonderful things can happen."
Client Services Enjoy Significant Growth During FY 2001

The Center for Rehabilitation Engineering continued to break its own records for service delivery again last year, more than doubling its service transactions over the previous year. Throughout FY 2001, the Center provided 912 service transactions for people with disabilities, an increase of 431 transactions over FY 2000. "Over the past year, the rate of growth we have experienced has been substantial," says Center director Les Cory. "It is a service record of which we can all be very proud."

In fact, productivity in FY 2001 surpassed the previous year's performance in every service area the Center provides. The Center placed 260 new systems with clients and provided service to 264 new clients throughout the course of the year. The number of system modifications, equipment repairs and client evaluations increased over FY 2000 totals as well.

Professor Cory credits the Center's affiliation with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission as a major catalyst for these dramatically increased service levels. Through this ongoing collaboration, the Center has been able to identify and serve a greater number of individuals with disabilities across the state. The partnership also has led to the addition of Rehabilitation Engineering Center staff, an expansion vitally needed to keep pace with the demands for service the Center continues to face.

"Of course, these accomplishments would not have been possible without the ongoing support of our extended community," notes Cory. "Their generosity and good will are behind every service we provide."

The FY 2001 Annual Report for SHARE and the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering has been completed and is available to the public. To learn more about the Center's work and SHARE's activities over the past year, request a free copy by contacting SHARE at 508-999-8482.

SAVE the Date

The 19th Annual
Ben Boyle
Golf Classic

Sunday, July 28th
Tee Times
beginning at 9 a.m.
Richmond Country Club
Hope Valley, RI

Sponsored by the Pawtuxet Valley Rotary Club and the Sunday Morning Golfers

For more information, please call Ron Kostyla at 401-821-6203 or 401-821-7527, or call SHARE at 508-999-8482

CALLING ALL CARS!

You can help support the work of the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering through your donation of a used vehicle to SHARE. SHARE will arrange for the vehicle's pick-up at your convenience and provide you with documentation for tax purposes. Proceeds from the sale of these vehicles help fund the provision of adaptive computer equipment and related services to children and adults with disabilities. Go the distance with that old car—call SHARE today at 508-999-8482!
Thank You

Thank you to the many supporters who have donated to SHARE over the past few months. Your generous gifts are making it possible for us to provide the opportunity for independent communication to more children and adults with disabilities.

The following donations were received from August 31, 2001 through March 10, 2002.

SPECIAL THANKS
Anonymous
A Tech Computers
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All Who Died on 9/11
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Bart Albert
Barbara LePage
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Linda Teixeira
Jean Judah
Doris A. Shaw
Nonie & Rick Walder
Nancy Abeshau
Josh Rumble
Donald Zeman
Shirley & Hans Picard

IN HONOR OF
All those who work, volunteer and give to SHARE
Polly Mosny
John & Mary Bettencourt
Mary & Edward McCauley
Tori and Robin
Anonymous

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Gilbert Goulet
Bella Guy
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